Out in the Rural: A Mississippi Health Center and Its War on Poverty

Thomas J. Ward Jr.
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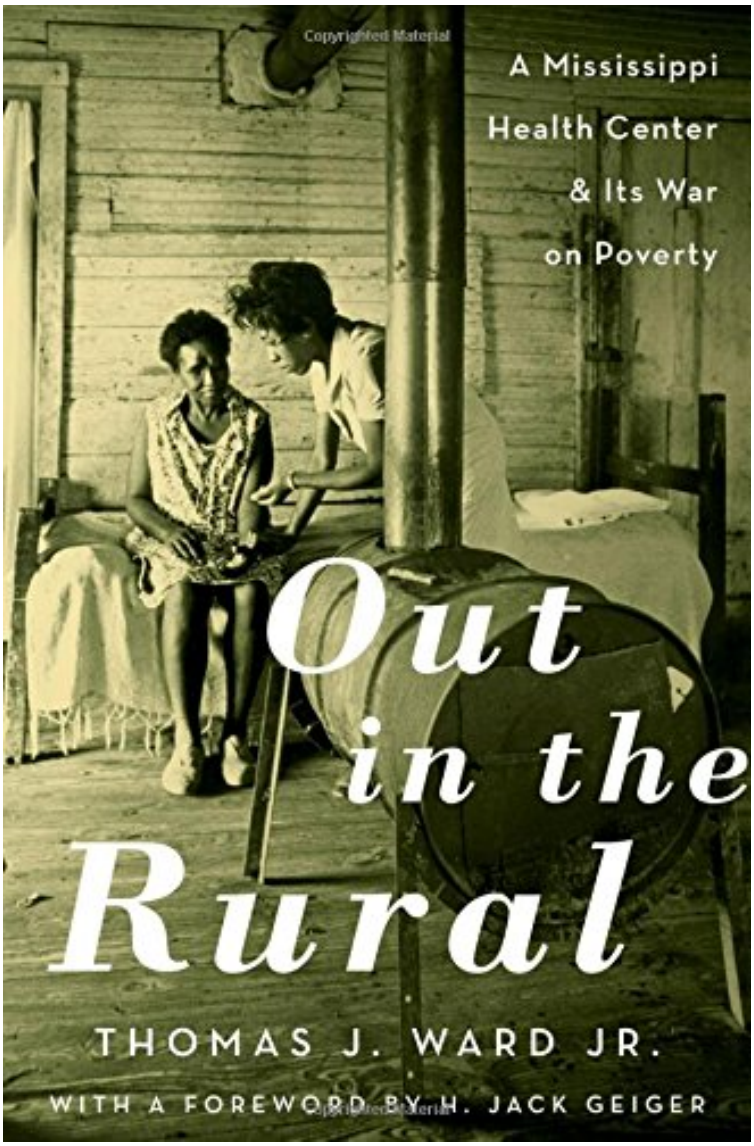

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Thomas J. Ward Jr. : Out in the Rural: A Mississippi Health Center and Its War on Poverty before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Out in the Rural: A Mississippi Health Center and Its War on Poverty:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Terrific readBy alexaThis is truly an eye-opening account of how a

single health care experiment changed the way our nation began to care for the medical and social needs of our rural destitute. In the 1960s, in rural Mississippi of all places, where racial divide was intense, care for the sick and infirm was almost non-existent. This is the story of how the nations first community health care centers came into being. Against the enormous odds of imbedded racial neglect, political agendas, fear of change and almost no funds, a tiny group of professionals gave birth to the idea that community health care is the first step to social change. Its a fascinating and heroic story.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An eye openerBy CustomerAn eye opener to America's healthcare system and the politics behind it. Don't blame Obama because the Affordable Care Act isn't working.

Out in the Rural is the unlikely story of the Tufts-Delta Health Center, which in 1966 opened in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, to become the first rural community health center in the United States. Its goal was simple: to provide health care and outreach to the region's thousands of rural poor, most of them black sharecroppers who had lived without any medical resources for generations.In Out in the Rural, historian Thomas J. Ward explores the health center's story alongside the remarkable life of its founder, Dr. H. Jack Geiger. A former teenage runaway, through a serendipitous turn of events he was befriended and taken in by the actor and Harlem Renaissance icon Canada Lee. Lee would later loan Geiger money for college, and after stints as a journalist and Merchant Marine, Geiger attended medical school and became a physician.Geiger's personal history brings a profound human element to what was accomplished deep in the Mississippi Delta. In addition to providing medical care, the staff of the Tufts-Delta Health Center worked upstream to address the fundamental determinants of health-factors such as education, poverty, nutrition, and the environment-and ask the question, "What does it take to stay healthy?"Equal parts social history and personal history, Out in the Rural is a story of both community health and of a stranger's kindness and determination to bring health care to areas out of reach.

Ward shows that "in both practical and symbolic terms, the Tufts-Delta Health Center was a radical assault on both the medical and social status quo"-and that story is as urgent today as it was a half century ago." Publishers WeeklyAbout the AuthorThomas J. Ward is the chair of the History Department at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. A native of Annapolis, Maryland, he earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Southern Mississippi. He is the author of numerous works on both African-American history and the history of health care, including his first book, Black Physicians in the Jim Crow South. He lives in Spanish Fort, Alabama with his wife and three sons.